

# GRAPESVINE

## VISITACION VALLEY

ISSUE #73

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

AUGUST 1992

### Safety Minded Neighbors Get Together



By the time late afternoon breezes picked up, several hundred people had helped themselves to homemade food and good cheer at the first-ever neighborhood barbecue on June 27, sponsored by the El Dorado School Neighborhood Betterment Council.

(Photo: Terry Peck)

By Joanne Huddleston, member  
El Dorado School Neighborhood  
Betterment Council

The sun was shining for the first neighborhood get-together at Girard and Harkness at the end of June. Before long, hundreds of residents -- adults and children -- had turned out for the barbecue, face painting, and fun.

Sponsored by the El Dorado School Neighborhood Betterment Council (ESNBC), the event marked nearly a year since the organization was formed to help make the area a safer and friendlier place. The group represents people living in the

hillside between Leland and Mansell, from San Bruno Avenue up to McLaren Park.

"We did it, we did it!" said Joel Tate, president of the ESNBC. "We had a lot of fun while achieving our objectives. Our neighbors got to know each other better, and we increased our membership by 25 percent."

San Francisco Supervisor Jim Gonzales joined the festivities during the afternoon, chatting with group leaders and amiably mixing in with the crowd. He said he is interested in the problems and concerns of people living in the area and

hopes to work with residents in the future.

At least a half a dozen community police officers participated from the Potrero Station's Community Police Officer Program, led by Officer Bruce Fairhair, who is assigned to the area and demonstrated he can cook a great won ton dish as well as patrol the beat.

Fireman Gary Plimley also made large contributions to the affair, bringing along a fire truck and several other fireman. Together with the police's "talking car," the fire truck proved a magnet for kids under 10 years old, who clambering around both and asked a lot of questions.

Other highlights included the All Hallows Catholic Church Children's Choir, which performed during the afternoon, the Crime Prevention Coloring Books courtesy of the community police, and of course, the balloons.

This get-together celebrated some of the ESNBC successes during the past year. Working to improve street lighting or reduce purse-snatching at the highway overpass at Harkness and San Bruno has brought people out of their homes and into the public realm -- many for the first time.

continued on page 4

### GENEVA TOWERS - REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENTS

The John Stewart Company was selected by HUD to manage the overall operations of Geneva Towers and to coordinate and oversee the rehabilitation and improvement of the total development.

Marquis Associates was selected through a competitive process as the Architect to develop a conceptual future Master Plan for Geneva Towers. Marquis Associates is the firm which effected the rehabilitation of the former "Pink Palace" to the award winning Rosa Parks Apartments in San Francisco. Their team includes architects, structural, mechanical, electrical, civil, and soils engineers plus sociologists. The Master Plan will be developed in consultation with Residents and will address the following problems, among others:

- Security
- Lack of community facility
- Overcrowding
- Seismic safety
- Disabled access

In March 1992 a seven-member Resident Council was democratically elected by the tenants of Geneva Towers.

Among the goals of the newly elected Council are designing innovative programs that provide tenant business enterprise and educational opportunities.

Prior to June 1991, the San Francisco Fire Department reported more than 1,200 calls and citations for life safety deficiencies at Geneva Towers in one year.

The San Francisco Police Department has recently commended The John Stewart Company's security efforts. On any indices we can think of, the site security at Geneva Towers has substantially improved. Statistics on police calls and drug incidents reflect a reduction in reported crime by over 50%.

Conditions of the unit interiors and grounds at Geneva Towers have significantly improved. The repair and maintenance program is continuing at a fast pace. It is only a beginning --, but The John Stewart Company staff have accomplished the following:

- From June 6 to June 9, 1991, removed over 90 dumpsters of rubbish and discards and towed over 35 vehicles and obstructions.

- Replaced and installed new refrigerators and stoves in occupied units as needed.

- Installed drapes in all vacant units and continues to install drapes in occupied units.

- Installed interior hallway lighting in both buildings.

- Planted grass as well as trees around the perimeter.

- Removed obstructions in all drains.

- Installed floodlights in the playground areas.

- Extended security office in both buildings and initiated a visitor sign-in and sign-out procedure.

- Built a canopy to allow children to access play area.

- Renovated facilities for recreation, youth and senior activities.

- Started and continuing to replace torn carpet and linoleum in hallways.

- Installed new coin-operated washers and dryers.

- Removed boards and installed windows.

### New Scam Reported

There seems to be a scam practically everyday to separate the unwary from their hard-earned cash. The newest one preys on those who have a bad credit rating.

At least one California-based company has been advertising that financially strapped clients can contact the IRS to get an employer identification number (EIN). Clients -- who have paid fees as high as \$1,500 -- are told they can then use this number to "decouple from bad credit histories and to re-establish new credit.

It's not only bad advice but illegal. One such company participating in this scam is Credit One services of California. The owners of this firm have been arrested on charges of criminal violations of state credit services laws, and also face civil actions by the Federal Trade Commission.

The scam is called credit file segregation and the firms offer advice on how to get EINs, which contain nine digits just like an individual's Social Security number.

EINs, however, are designed to be used by business for banking and for employment and business tax filings with the IRS. The scam is not only bad advice it's illegal.

Peoplehouse any number other than

their Social Security number for employee tax purposes may cause retirement credits to be misdirected or lost.

Using an EIN for this purpose could also make them criminally liable for falsifying tax records, and could subject them to prosecution for participating in a scheme to defraud the government.

Anyone who has participated in credit file segregation should contact Social Security immediately by calling 1-800-772-1213 to straighten out their records.

緊急事情打 911 的方法:

你不會講英文亦可以打 911 這個緊急電話, 只要仔細接通 911 後告訴接線生你所講的話是何種語言 (如廣東話或國語等等), 但你不要收線, 接線生會找人來給你翻譯。另外, 如果你不會講也可以打 911, 當你打完 911 後, 不要收線, 警察會到來你所打出 911 的電話的地方 為你解決問題。

打非緊急電話的方法:

警察指揮官占姆士·文諾特說: 博特奧警察和英格西警察很快便會安裝講廣東話的錄音電話, 你可以講廣東話留言, 警察每天會將你們的留言翻譯後去分析。到時, 我們會在「葡萄藤」這份社區報紙刊登電話號碼告知大家。



# C POP POTRERO

## 100 POINTS FOR POTRERO STATION

One Friday night, police officers from the Potrero Station responded to a call from a young lady who stated she was being stalked by her ex-husband who threatened to kill her. The young lady had a restraining order although she knew her ex-husband, being a repeat offender, did not respect the law, therefore he would not respect the terms of the restraining order.

After speaking with the frightened and tearful eyed young lady who had 2 babies in the home, the officers searched the area around the home and saw no signs of the suspect. The officers returned to the home of the young lady and in a compassionate and caring way told her if the suspect returned to telephone them immediately.

Well, the suspect returned and climbed over into the backyard, the dog started barking and the victim dialed 911. The police responded again promptly. They searched the grounds and found the suspect's vehicle parked down the hill on a dead end street. The officers towed the vehicle. Again they returned to the home of the victim and assured her that they would do all they could do to apprehend the fleeing suspect, and if he came back she should

call 911 again.

The petrified victim received several telephone calls from the suspect, threatening her life again. The victim telephoned the police department a total of 6 times throughout the weekend. She could not sleep for fear that this irrational, crazed man would come in her door at any time. She states that the only consolation she had was her belief in God and the confidence she found in the police officers that responded to her calls. A total of 12 officers responded throughout the weekend. The victim stated that every single one of them were sensitive, compassionate and understanding of the victim's plight. She felt that this was exceptional because you hear so often that police do not respond immediately to "domestic quarrels" or they do not take the complaints serious because usually the victim will not follow through with the complaint, so therefore the victim often ends up dead or seriously injured.

Knowing the facts about domestic violence, the Potrero Station officers not only responded in a timely fashion but were persistent in pursuing the suspect. This persistence paid off...by the end of the weekend a couple of officers patrolling their beat on Sunday after being off on Saturday, stopped by the victim's home to see if she was alright. They called the station to see what the status of the suspect was. The suspect came down to the station to get a release for the impounded car and was recognized by the Sergeant who responded to the complaint...a happy ending, the suspect was apprehended and jailed.

Special thanks to E. R. Ballenton, Bart Johnson, Melvin Thornton and to all the officers that assisted and possibly saved the life of this young lady.

The suspects are groups of males. One group is young black men who appear to be from 18 - 21 years old. A second group of black males appear to be from 28 - 32 years old. A third group is Latin males and a fourth is Samoan males. Two to six persons usually steal a vehicle in the process. They then have one or more of their group approach a victim from the rear and grab the handbag and go through the pockets of victims.

Many of the citizens attending the meeting had their own horror stories to tell, most having been victimized in similar ways. It was interesting that during the meeting that one suspect, of whom the police have a photograph, was identified as not only the person who had attacked and robbed a woman on the street, but had robbed one of the stores in the neighborhood. Of the two victims that identified him during the meeting, one was Asian and one was African American. From the attendance and the conversation during this meeting, it became clear that these crimes are being perpetrated on victims of all ages and ethnic groups.

Commander James Arnold, who is the commander of both Ingleside and Potrero, announced that he is expanding CPOP to Sunnydale. Sergeant Jim Leach is in charge of the CPOP Officers at Ingleside Station. Soon, both Ingleside and Potrero will have bilingual answering machines at special CPOP phone numbers. When you call, you will hear messages in both English and Chinese, and can leave a message for the appropriate officer to return your call. Foreign language messages left on these recording machines will be translated by the police daily, and they will respond as soon as possible. This is for non-emergency calls. For emergency calls, the 911 system has foreign language interpreters at all times. All you have to do is say the name of your language into the phone when the operator answers, and they are trained to know that means to get you the interpreter. 911 operators, with the help of Phone Company interpreters speak many languages, including Cantonese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Cambodian, etc.,

## Letters

Dear Editor:

Your comments regarding every phase of Coffman Pool operations are invaluable to staff, as well as management, in providing you with a safe, clean, pleasant and efficient environment.

Your Senior Swim Instructor is the Pool Manager; please address your comments to him. In addition to overseeing all phases of the pool operations, the Senior Swim Instructor is responsible for submitting a proposed seasonal pool program. Include in the basis for the Senior Swim Instructor's recommended proposed schedules are the following: Last year's program, community needs, pool and program attendance, balance in programming, and your suggestions.

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Your conception of how we conduct our business is of paramount importance to us.

Pablo A. Molina, Jr.

Asst. Aquatic Supervisor

753-7033

Dear Editor:

In its recent open letter to President Bush, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States, called for his forthright leadership in the elimination of racism in America.

Members of the American Baha'i community, like the more than 5 million Baha'is worldwide come from a broad

array of racial, ethnic, educational, material and religious backgrounds. Approximately one-third of the American Baha'i community is African American. The community also includes many Native Americans as well as Asian and Hispanic Americans, and over 10,000 Baha'is who fled religious persecution in Iran during the 1980's. The Baha'i Faith is the most experienced, the oldest, the most diverse living race unity workshop in the world.

We, therefore, invite the public to request a free copy of the full text of The Vision of Race Unity, America's Most Vital and Challenging Issue, a statement by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States publicly released in 1991.

170 Valencia Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415-431-9990

Sincerely,  
Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of San Francisco

## Five Years Ago in the Grapevine

AUGUST 1987

\*Three activities directors, Michael Cheatham, Karen Murray, and Patrick McGurk were recently assigned to Visitacion Valley Park, adjacent to the elementary school.

\*Shirley Brown, Visitacion Valley's librarian, is encouraging young readers with a whimsical summer reading game called "Dinosaur Daze" which stimulates the reader's imagination as well as a sense of competition.

\*A softball team, buddies of Vernon Long, the activities director at Geneva Towers, formed an unofficial big brothers program for Towers' children.

such a group. You can reach them at 553-1984.

To reach the CPOP Officers, you can call the Ingleside Officers at 333-3433. The Potrero CPOP phone number is 255-6297. All these numbers will be very useful in helping to combat crime. The police will do their best, but we all need to help them with our input, observations and support.

## THE GENEVA TOWERS LIBRARY BOOK DRIVE IS SEEKING NEW/USED BOOK DONATIONS TO HELP START OUR NEW YOUTH-ORIENTED LIBRARY.

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please call:

James Fisher at 586-4881

# C POP INGLESIDE

## CPOP OFFICERS JOIN VALLEY NEIGHBORS TO STOP NEW CRIME WAVE

After a big increase in street crimes during the month of June, Sergeant Jim Leach of the Ingleside Police Station decided that something had to be done right away. He called on his co-workers and the Potrero Police District and Project S.A.F.E. to call a neighborhood-wide meeting to alert the neighbors and gather information from victims and possible witnesses.

In May, there were 16 robberies in this area. In June, the number of robberies was a whopping 57. They happen mostly during the morning and evening rush hours on the streets, sidewalks and open vacant lots that people cut through on their way to and from home. The victims are mostly Asian and female, and seemed to be picked as appearing helpless. Many were carrying large amounts of money.

## GRAPEVINE VISITACION VALLEY

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Contests, Carnival, and More

1992 San Francisco Fair Returns Sept 5-7

1992 San Francisco Fair, expected to attract 50,000 attendees, returns Labor Day Weekend, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Sept 5-7, 1992, 11 am - 7 pm daily, to San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza, Polk & McAllister Streets, in front of City Hall. The Fair boasts a host of activities for the entire family ranging from the silly to the sublime, including a "Tot Lot" with activities for the diaper derby set, a full Carnival with more than 20 rides, a Gourmet Wine & Beer Garden featuring tasting from the prestigious 1992 National Wine Competition along with micro-brewery fare, and the ever-popular, wacky San Francisco Fair Contests.

Four stages of continuous live entertainment will echo the city's cultural diversity, with spicy salsa, pulsating rock, melodic jazz, middle-Eastern belly dancing, Haitian steel drums, country western music, plus traditional Chinese, Philippine and African dancing, and much more.

The youngest fair-goers will not be at a loss for entertainment, with free walk-up activities in the "Tot Lot" held hourly, including contests for ice cream eating, bubble gum blowing, and a diaper derby, plus circus acts, face painting and lots of hands-on art projects.

Teens will be torn between the Carnival, with more than 20 bone-rattling, shriek-inducing rides, and the central arena in which the 1992 National Skateboard Association Championships (the nation's largest) will be held. Always a crowd pleaser, the championships feature more than 80 daredevils from around the country performing gravity-defying leaps, twists and loops over a series of ramps.

Highlights include four stages of continuous live entertainment, circus shows, a "Tot Lot" of activities for kids, a Gourmet Wine & Beer Garden featuring tasting from the prestigious 1992 National Wine



Competition, and more than 20 on-going public contests, including the famous Fog Calling Contest, the Impossible Parking Space Race, a Recycled Art contest, Landmark Scavenger Hunt, Ice Carving,

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*Joyce Hollins & Staff***NOTES: GENEVA TOWERS RESIDENT COUNCIL**

By Lucy Y. White, President

The Resident Council of Geneva Towers was duly elected by the tenants of Geneva Towers. The Resident Council is a distinct and separate entity within itself. It is not a part of, nor does it represent any other group/organization within or outside of Geneva Towers. The Geneva Towers Resident Council does not replace any group or organization.

The Resident Council is composed of nine tenants, elected by residents and responsible for addressing the issues facing Geneva Towers residents.

Some goals of the Resident Council are:

1. To democratically serve as representatives of all residents of Geneva Towers.
2. To participate in training and organizational development sessions to enable the council to function in a knowledgeable and effective manner as a resident management team.
3. To coordinate the needs of the residents with management of services.
4. To assist management in the development of house rules, resident selection criteria, and grievance procedures.
5. To determine if sufficient interest

exists among the residents to comply with HUD guidelines for possible negotiation to become an ownership entity.

6. To work with management and HUD to initiate changes to correct and improve the physical decline in Geneva Towers caused by years of neglect.

7. To improve economic standards, resolve social conflicts and initiate activities and programs which will benefit not only Geneva Towers residents, but the community as a whole.

**Neighbors Together**

from page 1

Members of the group have spoken with the mayor's office, the Board of Supervisors, and countless other city offices over the months. The visibility of this sometimes-forgotten corner of San Francisco has risen considerably.

"We have to remain tenacious, though," said Tate, "in our efforts to stem open drug sales and theft in our community."

The El Dorado School Neighborhood Betterment Council meets at the school, located at 70 Delta Street, at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Anyone from the area who is interested is welcome to attend.

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## Ciao Pirin

By Joseph Porter

### A Story Of Survival

There is one period in my life that, for obvious reasons, I have never dared disclose to anyone. I always thought it best forgotten, although it was instrumental in changing my whole life.

These stories of mine are mostly lessons in survival against insurmountable odds.

I am referring to my trek from Nicaragua back to the United States, after the earthquake that demolished Managua in 1931. It was my ultimate struggle for survival.

For the thrill of adventure, I had undertaken a motorcycle trip from North America to Central and South America. I intended it to be a world record if I succeeded. With an abounding faith that I could conquer all obstacles, I was confident of success.

After ten months of struggles and half way toward my goal, with the worst behind me, the earthquake struck and destroyed my motorcycle.

#### That Was Not In My Plans

I was stranded and destitute. My motorcycle had been my passport. Wherever I went I had a hero's welcome, with music and banners and the key to the city.

Suddenly, all that was changed. Without my bike, I had no excuse for being. I had become a vagrant, a hum, a social outcast. No country would have me.

My only recourse was to apply to the Consul of my native country for passage home at government expense, which would automatically have made me ineligible for ever being issued another passport. That would have spelled my death sentence.

I definitely wanted to go back to the United States which had practically become my home during the previous five years.

Youth is impetuous and does not always think. While in Canada, I had applied for a Visa to come to the United States. It was denied as the quota had already been filled. So, I came without it, thinking one more wouldn't hurt.

Now I found myself a man without a country, a fugitive subject to deportation if and when I was spotted by the authorities.

I was broke, as all my needs had been taken care of by contributions from the applauding populace.

At the time, the Sandinistas and the United States Marines were fighting an ever ending battle. Weapons were at a premium, and I sold my gun, a thirty-eight special, for fifty dollars. It was only valuable left, my sole protection, and I was loath to part with it. The money was to be kept for emergencies.

With pandemonium all around me, I headed north, on foot. Now, do not think for one moment that walking was tough and that I missed my bike. Walking was child's play compared to driving a motorcycle, I accomplished in two months on foot.

The difficulty for me was to keep out of sight. I could not afford to be recognized; therefore I had to follow a different route. I avoided all big cities and stayed to the outskirts of the small villages. I trusted nobody.

I had five borders to cross, heavily

patrolled due to political unrest. My only protection was a strong bowie knife and a heavy club toward off dogs and machetes.

When possible, I followed the railroad tracks, but most of the time I had to struggle through jungle and desert, sleeping alone, avoiding all human contact.

There is too much to tell for me to cover every detail.

Unhindered by my motorcycle, I found it easier to travel.

Sleeping in the jungle had become an accepted way of life. I usually felt safer than among people. For the previous ten months, I had been stranded in all kinds of terrain.

Among thick vegetation, every inch of ground was alive with crawling creatures. While lying down, asleep or resting, lizards, bugs, and snakes would crawl over me, as if I were a log.

I learned to ignore them.

Upon awakening, I would make sure no snake had snuggled close to me for warmth and that no scorpion had crawled into my only blanket. Mosquitos and giant ants were after my blood. They were tenacious and persistent, and I had to grin and bear it.

I would be awakened by a constant chattering of hundreds of excited monkeys overhead in the dense foliage. They were probably wondering about the strange creature lying on the ground below. Their chirping would give me reassurance that no wild animal was in the vicinity.

Such was my life in the jungle.

The desert had other problems, the foremost being lack of water. I could never carry enough. Without water you cannot eat. You lack saliva, and food feels like sawdust, dry and impossible to swallow.

The sun, the incessant sun, is your worst enemy, a killer and a thief. Yes, a thief and a sneak. One day I was about to collapse from the heat; my canteen was almost empty, and my thirst was unbearable. Every hour or so I would take a sip, just enough to cheat my tongue. Eventually I had only two spoonfuls left, two spoonfuls of delicious water to give me strength and life.

I wanted to make it last as long as possible. When I could no longer resist the craving, I reached for it, trembling in anticipation. The canteen, stripped of its protective cover, was hot, burning hot and... empty. The sun had stolen my last drop of water!

My next problem was food. Game was

plentiful, but I had no gun. There were banana fields with nothing to eat; you cannot eat bananas off a tree. Corn on the cob was usually on hand to be roasted on an improvised fire. Iguana eggs were a treat but hard to come by. Iguanas were all around me, swift and slippery and impossible to catch.

I stole fruits undetected. If caught, I ran. If cornered, I fought. I recall the time I was fleeing across fields, a purloined chicken grasped in one hand, a crazed machete-yielding native in hot pursuit. Food was where I found it.

I was slowly turning into a wild man with all the instincts of a savage. I had become a fatalist, and death was meaningless. I swam across rivers, unmindful of crocodiles.

Swimming to Mexico from Guatemala, in the middle of the night, I heard the put-put of the border patrol motorboat. I hid among the reeds, totally submerged for fifty seconds. When I emerged, the coast was clear.

After two months of walking and hiding, I finally reached Mexico City. Here I cleaned up and bought a train ticket to the United States border. The worst was over, and I was about to reach my goal. For the first time, I traveled in the open, among people, and I felt safe.

The train was headed north. A big man was sitting next to me, and two boys were facing us. I had squandered a few centavos on a second hand book by Jules Verne, 'The Tribulations of a Chinaman in China', in Spanish, of course, and I was reading. That probably saved me.

We were nearing the border when my companion addressed the two youths.

"May I see your papers, please? I am an immigration officer." I sat stiff as a board and held my breath. I could not believe my ears.

Dear God! Don't let it happen now, so close to my goal.

I had been too confident and reckless. I had left myself wide open. On a slip and all my hardships and privations were in vain. I steeled myself to face the inevitable.

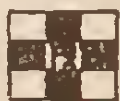
The boys' papers were in order and the man sat back and relaxed.

I had been close. At the next stop I got off the train.

I was now facing barren country. I bought some food and, with an adequate supply of water, I headed north toward the United States border and to freedom. Within two days I reached El Paso, where I boarded a train for San Francisco.

## FREE ARTS & CRAFTS CLASS AT VVCC

A free arts & crafts class is available for kids at VVCC on Saturdays throughout the summer. Dehle Faulkner brings her artistic talents to children 7 to 12 years of age from 11 AM to 1 PM. The children explore all kinds of media; paint, clay, weaving, paper craft, sculpture, mask making, basketry, drawing and more. There is no cost for the class, materials are provided. Parents are welcome to participate. The class meets upstairs at VVCC in the Ballroom. No registration is required, just come and bring your creativity.



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Coming soon to our neighborhood...

## JOBS !

Tuntex U.S.A. Corporation will be building 600 condominiums south of Candlestick starting later this winter. They have promised that they will require the Architects and Contractors to hire 50% of the workers from the 94134 and 94124 zip codes. Visitacion Valley Community Center and Young Community Developers have been designated to be the agencies to receive applications for jobs. We're taking names now...so your name will be high on the list when they start hiring. GET YOUR NAME ON THE LIST

**TODAY!**

CALL VVCC AT 467-6400 OR FILL IN AND SEND THE FORM BELOW TO 50 RAYMOND AV, SF 94134

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of work you can do: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you belong to any union? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you eligible to belong to a union? \_\_\_\_\_



# The Puzzler...

by Anne Kaartunen

## WORD LIST

PEACE  
HARMONY  
LOVE  
SOFT  
RAINBOW  
FRIENDSHIPS  
RESPECT  
HOT  
DOGS  
JOY  
QUIET  
GOLD  
NATURE  
(HOT) COCOA  
TRUTH  
SMILE  
HAPPINESS  
RED  
SUNSET  
YELLOW  
STARS  
HUG  
HOME

## PEACE IS...

H T U R T C O C O A J T  
S Y N O M R A H S O F T  
S O H E N Q T M Y R L E  
T F T A E U I H I S D S  
A C I U R L O E W L M N  
R O E T E M N L O G N U  
S C U P E D O G L D A S  
O O Q C S V U N L R T L  
F H A H E E H T E I U Q  
R E I N B O R D Y O R J  
P P U R A I N B O W E Y  
S S E N I P P A H G U H

This word list is from Koyuse Club members, when asked "What do you think of when you hear the word 'peace'?"

## They Were San Franciscans

### LILLIE HITCHCOCK COIT

Situated prominently atop Telegraph Hill is an oddly shaped tower hundreds of visitors flock daily to see. Designed more than 60 years ago by architect Arthur Brown, the 210 foot high Coit Tower was shaped to resemble a fire hose nozzle, built in memory of Lillie Hitchcock Coit as a memorial to the heroic volunteer firemen of the City's yesteryear she so greatly admired.

Born Eliza Hitchcock on the East Coast in 1842, she was eight years old in 1851 when her father, a military surgeon, was transferred west to become Medical Director of the Pacific Coast.

Young Lillie began to take great interest in the frantic operations of the Knickerbocker Number Five Fire Company, a volunteer outfit adjacent to the Oriental Hotel where her family first resided. Volunteer firefighting was a prestigious honor to the City's populous, and the firemen soon found the youngster eagerly attending the

scene of each calamity, enough that they made her an honorary member in October 1863.

In November, 1868, she married B.H. Coit, a mining engineer stationed at the local exchange, but the young woman's flair for extravagance soon found the couple separating. They decided to just be friends.

Although becoming very wealthy through inheritance, Lillie Coit never forgot the brave men who risked their lives to fight the City's many fires. She organized many of their social gatherings, and always cabled her greetings when vacationing abroad.

Upon her death in July, 1929, her will bequeathed \$100 thousand to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for use in the betterment of her beloved city.

Remembering that Lillie Coit had a fond passion for the spectacular views of the bay from Telegraph Hill, the Board elected to have a majestic tower erected there on the site of a former signal station. Dedicated on October 8, 1933, Coit Tower stands as a tribute to the memory of many brave men and a dedicated woman.

## THIS MONTH In San Francisco HISTORY

Aug. 1: In 1849, John W. Geary became San Francisco's last American alcalde. One year later, the former local postmaster, who had served as a colonel in the Mexican-American War, became the City's first mayor. In 1881, a U. S. Quarantine Station was authorized for Angel Island. In 1961, the new Hall of Justice at 850 Bryant St. was opened.

Aug. 2: In 1873, Andrew S. Hallidie operated the first of his cable cars down the steep Clay St. hill, completing the six block trial run between Jones and Kearny Sts. In 1923, President Warren G. Harding, after becoming ill at Grants Pass, Oregon during a tour of the western United States, died suddenly at the Palace Hotel.

Aug. 3: In 1850, the San Francisco Evening Picayune, the first evening newspaper on the Pacific Coast, commenced publication by Dr. J. H. Gibbon and Co. at six cents an issue.

Aug. 6: In 1866, an eight-hour work day was demanded by striking City plasterers.

Aug. 8: In 1870, a contract for a preliminary topographical survey was awarded to W. H. Hall in the designing of Golden Gate Park.

Aug. 10: In 1973, the first Bay Area Rapid Transit train traveled through the transbay tube under San Francisco Bay to the new subway station at Montgomery St.

Aug. 11: In 1930, a minimum clearance of 220 feet was established by the War Department for mid-span construction of the Golden Gate Bridge. Clearance at the two piers was set at 210

feet.

Aug. 15: In 1901, 30 tons of explosives destroyed the hazardous Arch Rock situated in San Francisco Bay. In 1914, Muni began operating streetcars on its new H-Van Ness route, later to become the 47 Potrero.

Aug. 16: In 1860, 60 acres of Lone Mountain were purchased by Archbishop Joseph Alemany to become part of the Calvary Cemetery, consecrated two years later on August 17.

Aug. 18: In 1856, the Vigilance Committee held a large general review and parade to mark suspension of its operations. More than 3,000 men had served in its forces. In 1903, the maiden flight of Dr. A. Creth's experimental dirigible was made over the City.

Aug. 20: In 1956, the Republican National Convention opened at the Cow Palace, soon nominating incumbent President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and then current Vice President Richard M. Nixon for their eventual victories in the November election.

Aug. 22: In 1869, the City's first railroad freight, a varied assortment of footwear, arrived from Boston, MA in just 16 days. In 1899, the first wireless telegraph transmission to be received in the United States was sent from the San Francisco lightship to a station inside the Cliff House.

Aug. 24: In 1893, ground was broken for the San Francisco Mid-winter Fair in Golden Gate Park.

Aug. 29: In 1914, the Arizona became the first ship to arrive in San Francisco Bay via the newly completed Panama Canal. In 1954, the newly reconstructed San Francisco International Airport was opened.

Aug. 31: In 1851, the clipper ship Flying Cloud, built in East Boston by Donald McKay and piloted by Captain Cressy, set a long-standing sailing record of 89 days from New York to San Francisco, travelling around Cape Horn. On board was a varied cargo of merchandise.

## Mayors of San Francisco

### HENRY TESCHEMAKER

San Francisco's eleventh mayor, Henry F. Teschemaker, popular amongst his fellow townspeople, had the distinction of becoming the City's first foreign born chief executive, as well as incumbent when state legislation officially redesignated San Francisco's top post from President of the Board of Supervisors to Mayor.

Born in England on February 16, 1823, Teschemaker first arrived on the Pacific Coast in 1842 as a clerk for William Appleton & Co., a fur and hide trading business. He seized the opportunity to make himself a fortune by acquiring prime San Francisco real estate while the masses had all but abandoned the town and journeyed north to the gold fields.

Eventually moving to the City, his desire for law and order in a virtually lawless town led to his membership in

both Committees of Vigilance in 1851 and 1856. As a vigilante, Teschemaker also served as a justice in determining the fates of many Sidney Ducks, rugged Australian criminals who sailed northward to take residence in San Francisco, and who frequently held the town hostage to their dastardly deeds of robbery, theft, and fire-settings.

He became a candidate of the People's Party when Ephraim Burr, the party's incumbent candidate, announced his retirement. Winning handily over two candidates debating the slavery issue in a divided Democratic party, Teschemaker took office on October 3, 1859, and remained there through June of 1863, when perhaps tired of too much politics, he refused to seek a fourth term, and departed for Europe a few months later.

There he remained, except for one small visit in the early 1890s, until his death in Switzerland on November 26, 1904.

## BOOK REVIEW:

Cow Palace Great Moments by Edward Diran (G.M. Publishing, 179 Gramercy, San Mateo, CA 94402, \$14)

When the local press originally described the construction of a livestock pavilion in a port city "unnecessary," according to Edward Diran's recently published work, Cow Palace Great Moments, a newsman dubbed the huge concrete facility as a "palace for cows." After a little strategic editing at his newspaper's copy desk, the final draft read "cow palace," and the rest is history... about half a century's worth.

Skillfully edited by Tony Compagno, and containing dozens of historic photographs, the book's narrative winds a diverse journey through hundreds of events, from the Western

States Holstein Classic Show and Sale of April 20, 1941, the Cow Palace's first recorded event in a still unfinished building, through concerts, professional sporting events, western shows, the circus, and two Republican National Conventions in 1956 and 1964.

Just a few days prior to the United States' entry into World War 2, the Army secured the Cow Palace from the State of California for four years at one dollar per year.

Personalities abound in the book's 219 pages: from Dwight D. Eisenhower, Richard Nixon, and Barry Goldwater to Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Lorne Greene, Liberace, and the Beatles. There are Warriors, Seals, and Shamrocks, wrestling and roller derby, Walt Disney and Walter Cronkite...even a snapshot of 1950 Junior Grand National Rodeo Queen Diane Goldman, the future Mayor Diane Feinstein of San Francisco.

# GARDENING, ANYONE?

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### Weekend With 8th Annual A La Carte, A La Park

San Francisco celebrates its tradition of fine food, music and wine with A La Carte, A La Park to be held September 5-7, 1992.

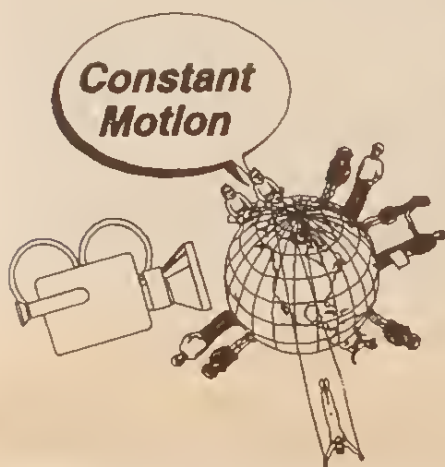
More than 50 of the Bay Area's top restaurants offer special menu items and celebrity chefs conduct cooking demonstrations for festival goers to enjoy.

For more information, please contact Events West at (415) 383-9378.

### Hungarian Day With The Golden Gate Park Band

Come enjoy Hungarian Day in Golden Gate Park on Sunday, August 14. The Golden Gate Park Band will feature folk dancing and the music of Hungary. Don't miss this entertaining festival.

This free concert, conducted by Robert Hansen, in coordination with the Hungarian Cultural Center, will be held at 1 p.m., Band Concourse, Golden Gate Park.



by Shirletha Holmes-Boxx

Constant Motion is proud to announce every first Wednesday of the month, Gossip columnist, Rochelle Metcalf will be featured at 3:30pm and 8:00pm with "I Heard That".....Rumor has it this is one of the biggest snitches around.....

we definitely want to see what she has to say!!!!!!

The Monte Carlo will be feature on "Blue Monday", Constant Motion will make it a cool blue Monday.....The Gang Prevention Program in Visitation Valley will be taking 12 youth camping with the Wilderness Program of course Constant Motion will be there to cover this!!!!!! Whenever you see a red light blinking - Smile you might be on "Constant Motion".

Don't forget "Trip City" at 8:00pm.....

## VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER SENIOR PROGRAM

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Exercise  
Jewelry  
Foot Doctor  
Meetings  
Day outings  
Trips  
Walking Club  
etc...etc...

Reno  
Quilting  
Sewing  
Blood Pressure  
Photography  
Gardening  
Oil Painting  
Chubby Class  
etc...etc...

Ceramics  
Embroidery  
Guest Speakers  
Parties  
Potlucks  
Video Day  
Cooking Class  
Spanish Class  
etc...etc

66 Raymond Ave....467-4499...Pat Crocker, Director

## August 1992

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

2 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	3	4 12:30pm Senior's Bingo at VVCC	5 6:30pm Valley wide Parents' Council C EQ	6 11:00am VVCC Senior Council Meeting 7:00pm ROSES Pottery Police Community Relations Moment of Silence Hiroshima 1945	7  7:30pm Visitation Valley Asian Residents' Assn.	8
9 1:00pm VVCC Bingo Moment of Silence: Nagasaki 1945	10	11 12:00pm Senior's Bingo at VVCC 4:30pm Serrano Tennis & Association Opera El Dorado Neighborhood Bettlement Council	12 6:00pm Executive Park Advisory Committee- open to all	13 6:00pm VVCC Parents Council FM Salvation Army Flea Market	14 11:00am VVCC Childcare Graduation 7:30pm Visitation Chinese Mission Graduation	15 Maxine Waters born 1935
16 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	17 Marion Garvey, Davey Crockett, Mac West, R DeNiro	18	19	20 Senior Day - San Mateo Fairgrounds - FREE	21 LQ	22 9:30am VVCC Board Meeting
VVCC Kids & Seniors Camping Trip						
23 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	24	25 12:30pm Senior's Bingo at VVCC 7:00pm El Dorado Neighborhood Bettlement Council	26 Women's Equality Day - 19th Amendment 1920	27 9:00am USDA Food Distribution - Low Income 94114 9:00am VVCC Art Class Rummage Sale • NM Mother Teresa's Birthday	28 9:00pm Visitation Valley Improvements Club 1960s Hilarious march on Washington for civil rights "I have a dream" speech M. L. King 1963	29 Wyomia Tyus born 1945
30 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	31					

### San Francisco Executive Park Advisory Committee

#### Meeting Announcement

The San Francisco Executive Park Advisory Committee will be meeting the second Wednesday of each month beginning on July 8, 1992. These meetings are open to the public and will be held at 150 Executive Park Blvd., Suite 4200. The discussions will focus on the current status of the residential development at Executive Park.

Individuals interested in attending are asked to RSVP at 415/468-6676.

#### REGULAR MEETINGS OF CITY COMMISSIONS & BOARDS

Airports Commission	1st & 3rd Tuesday	3:00PM
Arts Commission	1st Monday	3:00PM
Board of Education	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:00PM
Board of Supervisors	each Monday	2:00PM
Commission on Aging	1st Wednesday	9:30AM
Comm - Status of Women	4th Thursday	4:00PM
Health Commission	1st & 3rd Tuesday	3:00PM
Housing Authority Comm	2nd & 4th Thursday	4:00PM
Human Rights Comm	1st & 3rd Thursday	4:30PM
Library Commission	1st Tuesday	4:30PM
Planning Commission	each Thursday	1:30PM
Police Commission	each Wednesday	5:30PM
Port Commission	1st Tues & 3rd Wed	4:30PM
Public Utilities Comm	2nd & 4th Tuesday	2:00PM
Recreation & Parks	3rd Thursday	2:00PM
Social Services Comm	4th Thursday	9:30AM

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# *The Society Page*



The Fire Dept.'s Company 44 turned out in force, welcoming children to explore their equipment. (Photo: Terry Peck)



People brought special dishes to the event at Harkness and Girard, so the selection was great. (Photo: Sgt. Heather Fong, S.F.P.D.)



Supervisor Jim Gonzales, at center right, talked with neighbors about problems in the area and pledged his support. (Photo: Sgt. Heather Fong, S.F.P.D.)



Volunteers painted kids' faces at the first-ever neighborhood get together, sponsored by the El Dorado School Neighborhood Betterment Council. (Photo: Terry Peck)



Community Police Officer Bruce Fairbairn demonstrates the "talking car" to the curious. (Photo: Sgt. Heather Fong, S.F.P.D.)

Please send your announcements, invitations, photos, greetings, and other social items, whether hi-brow, low-life, serious or silly, to the GRAPEVINE, c/o VVCC, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134, or call 467-6400.